

HIGHLIGHTS

October 2002

A Children & Youth Services Newsletter for Volunteers & Mentors of CYS-Project Together

Vol. XVII, No. 10

For Your Information...

Mentors and volunteers mark your calendars for the annual CYS-Project Together Picnic slated from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at Site # 19 in Mile Square Park at Brookhurst and Warner in Fountain Valley. The Great Pumpkin Picnic promises to be full of surprises and fun, so wear your comfortable clothes...

Volunteer Coordinators Adrienne Davalos and Diane Prescott look forward to the help of volunteers assisting other elves at CYS-Project Together Santa's Workshops. Two are slated for Saturdays, Oct. 5 and 12. Help make woodcraft items for the annual CYS-Project Together BouTEAque fundraiser, which is on the calendar for Thursday, Nov. 21. For more information call Adrienne at (714)565-2830 or Diane at (714)896-7570...

"The Eighth Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County 2002" was recently released. Some very interesting statistics provide insight, understanding and hard data for future planning. Some stand-out figures include: Of Orange County's 768,419 children, 12,893 were receiving mental health treatment in 2001. Some 16.7% live below the federal poverty level, 31.5% live in relative poverty, based on the cost of living in Orange County. For more information, you may access the full report or the Quick Guide on the internet at www.oc.ca.gov/hca/csccl/report...

Be sure to drop by CYS-Project Together Central Office at 405 W. 5th St. in Santa Ana, or call us at (714)796-0100 to obtain your Albertson's card. Every time you shop at Albertson's and swipe your card, a portion of your

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Volunteers Are Special!

Mentor Helps Teenager Create Positive Change

Matt Kempton was the perfect person who came to mind when a mentor was needed to help bring a very withdrawn young man out of his shell, according to Adrienne Davalos, CYS-Project Together Volunteer Coordinator for Aspen Community Services in Santa Ana.

Therapist Paul Youngerman with Aspen requested that CYS-Project Together provide a male mentor to work with the teenager. According to Paul, "Matt has been a major factor in helping him make a positive turn in his life...Matt has helped him see a more positive side of life and it has helped him want to live."

Matt previously mentored an energetic and outgoing 11-year-old boy who successfully completed treatment. He was taking a bit of a break from his mentoring duties until he heard about how much the new boy needed a positive, stable influence in his life.

"Matt has a calm, positive and a caring manner about him that helps a child," said the therapist. "His willingness and support of the therapeutic process is outstanding. He keeps in regular contact with me to make certain what he is doing supports the boy's therapy," says Paul.

Adrienne noted that "Part of Matt's success as a mentor is his flexibility and his ability to determine the types of outings that will work well for the client. Initially, the client would not share his interests or suggest the type of activity he would like to do. Matt's persistence paid off. He tried everything he could think of, from miniature golf, to movies and batting cages."



According to Matt, "It really helps to become interested in what the child likes. One day we shot pool and he really enjoyed it. So we went more often, which helped him build and gain confidence. It has been good to see him doing things he enjoys," he said. One day, Matt was simply out of ideas, so the two just threw a football around. It turned out to be one of their best visits because it was relaxed and gave him the time to open up.

At times when Matt takes the teenager home, they just sit and talk for a while.

"The once withdrawn teenager, now initiates conversations and demonstrates some excitement. These small steps are huge victories. His teachers report that they have observed a positive change in the teenager and that he is starting to interact with his peers," says Adrienne.

According to the boy's therapist, "Matt was given a difficult challenge in mentoring this child, but it wasn't an obstacle for him."

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Projects Corner

Libraries Are the New Frontier in Digital Village

- ☐ Research
- ☐ Accessing books for reading and reference from other libraries
- ☐ Video games
- ☐ Locating local and national resources
- ☐ Writing a neatly printed essay
- ☐ Accessing and receiving E-mail
- ☐ Keeping in touch with relatives and pen pals
- ☐ Or just surfing the world wide web



equipment and attend classes.

According to Library Manager Cameron Towbridge of the Costa Mesa Technology Branch, which opened in February 2002, "The kids dive right in without reservation and usually can teach us a thing or two. We offer classes on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings, which are attended mostly by adults. Teenagers and children are always welcome."

The Laguna Hills Technology Branch, which has been busy since it opened in July 2002, is adjacent to the community center and sports complex and across from the high school. It provides classes via their community partnerships with other community entities. According to Laguna Hills Technology Branch Librarian Maureen Gebelein, "Due to our location, our branch has been full of kids."

If the child or teenager you are working with needs to do research for a paper, would like to find out more about a topic or interest, needs help with homework or reading, or would like to play video games, go to one of the new technology library branches and log on to www.ocpl.org or www.ocpl.org/ocplkid/homework.htm. Many teenagers and adults utilize the internet at the libraries to search for jobs. They are able to complete their job applications on line, compose resumes and even send them via E-mail.

Children, teenagers and adults may access the equipment simply by presenting their library card. Those who are unable to present a card, may use the equipment by obtaining a guest card, which allows one hour of computer use a day. According to Maureen, mentors may work with kids on the computers by using their own library cards until the parent or guardian is able to sign for one for the minor.

Locations of Technical Branch Libraries:

Costa Mesa Technology Branch Library
2022 S. Bristol
Costa Mesa
(714)754-4431

Laguna Hills Technology Branch Library
2555 Alicia Parkway
Laguna Hills
(949)707-2699

Utilizing any library will help teach the child or teenager how to access information they need for school, for fun and for life.

Volunteers Are Special!

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Matt's advice to fellow mentors who are working with quiet and withdrawn youth is "Just stick with it. In the beginning it's hard---not easy at all. Being consistent and accepting of your mentee pays off. It takes time for the kid to get to know you. Even though he is quiet, he pays attention and listens to everything."

Matt's willingness, persistence, consistency and caring is a true example of what a difference a mentor can make in the child's life.

Volunteering as a mentor for CYS-Project Together has also made a difference in Matt's life. A controller for Marriott Senior Living Services, Matt became a mentor because "A friend was doing it." Now he continues to mentor because he finds satisfaction by making a difference. Most of all, his experience as a mentor has made him appreciate the differences in people and aware that "You can still get along in spite of differences."

—Information for this article was contributed by Adrienne Davalos, CYS-Project Together Volunteer Coordinator for Aspen Community Services in Santa Ana.

All of these services are available at your Orange County Public Libraries, located in all regions of the county.

However, Orange County librarians have taken a daring step into the new digital frontier by opening two "Technology Branch" libraries that are totally devoted to providing information by using new technology as resources. All county libraries have shelves loaded with books and a few computers, including those with child filters, that may be used by patrons. The computers are so heavily used, customers often must put their name on a list for access.

The technology branches are a different story. The computer equipment is abundant at these two locations. But the book selection is extremely limited, filling but a few shelves. Patrons may search the library catalogue on line or order a book transferred from another branch for 25 cents. Both technology branches have 25 computers, most with internet browsers, designated internet stations with child filters, a handful of computers for word processing and network printers.

Classes and workshops are available to teach patrons how to use the internet, how to use a mouse, how to do a search, or how to maximize use of search engines. There are also classes on word processing, computer basics and how to access databases and how to build a database of your own to make a mailing list. Both children and adults are welcome to utilize the computer

Mentoring Matters

WELCOME NEW MENTORS

East	Robin Jordan Rocio Sanchez
North	Kimberly Bird Brian D'Antonio (rematch) Michele Dreiling Diana Huijsmans Geri Kleinpell
South/ Costa Mesa	Rachel Magana
South/Laguna	Robert Baker Heike Kholooci Phil Schreiber Mike Sweeney

West	Alexandria Cortez Naomi Nguyen (rematch) Jacqueline Pham Brenda Vega Conrad Wilson (rematch) Nicole Yonke
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Aspen/Tustin	Jade Wood
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THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE MOVED ON

East	Heather Physioc
North	Ana Maria Benavides Henry Cuidadreal Elaine Nelson Sherri Umali
South/ Costa Mesa	Tina Chang Stephanie George Marty Glassman Julie Yrigollen

There's More Than One Way to Hug a Child...

The staff and clients of Children & Youth Services (CYS) and CYS-Project Together deeply appreciate the wonderful support provided by many local businesses and organizations. Our affiliation with the Mental Health Association of Orange County allows us to accept and distribute community resources that are an important asset in the therapeutic process for all the children we serve. Each month, we extend our thanks and give recognition to our caring donors.

Albertsons General Office
Boise, ID

Books Are Fun
Mission Viejo

Aspen Community Services Corp.
Cerritos

Capcom's Nickel City
Stanton

Dr. Chantel Daitch
Westminster

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hall
Midway City

Mission Hospital
Mission Viejo

Lenscrafters
Brea

Lenscrafters
Irvine

Ralphs
Irvine

R & J Cabinets
Garden Grove

Jody Spellmeyer
Costa Mesa

Statek Corp.
Orange

Tall Mouse
Tustin

Paul Youngerman
Huntington Beach

CYS-Project Together October Events

Saturdays, Oct. 5 & 12 Santa's Workshops

Call for locations
Adrienne Davalos (714)565-2830
Diane Prescott (714)896-7570

Drop by and help make woodcraft items for the annual CYS-Project Together BouTEAque fundraiser slated for Thursday, Nov. 21. Refreshments provided.

Time: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. shift
1-4 p.m. shift

Cost: Your generous donation of time

October 15, 17, 22, 24 & 29 Mentor Workshops The Challenges of Mentoring (How to Cope with Difficult Situations)

(714)796-0100

Workshops, conducted by CYS-Project Together Volunteer Coordinator Jonathan Schiesel, will be held at a different location on each date so all mentors may easily access a training closest to their home or work. Watch for the announcement in the mail.

Time: 7-8:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

Saturday, Oct. 26 The Great Pumpkin Picnic

Mile Square Park, Site # 19
Brookhurst & Warner
Fountain Valley
(714)796-0100

This is a picnic for CYS-Project Together volunteers, mentors and CYS clients with mentor assignments. Be prepared for a day of great food, fun games, a seasonal surprise project and comradery. Be sure to bring the flyer you receive in the mail because that is your parking pass.

Time: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cost: Free

For Your Information...

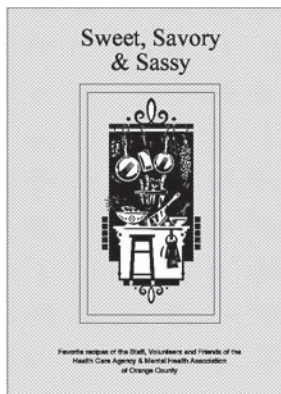
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grocery purchase price will be donated by Albertson's to CYS-Project Together/Mental Health Association. This helps support mentor activities for CYS clients, and costs you nothing but the time it takes to swipe your card...

Effective July 2002, amendments to the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act prohibit schools from forcing students to transfer to different schools every time their addresses change or if they are rendered homeless and have no address. This pro-

vides many children in the U.S. and here in Orange County with the stability of a constant school site. The federal McKinney Act has had a tremendous impact on the status of children across the nation...

The Back Page



Sweet, Savory & Sassy

This is the ultimate cookbook compiled with the help of the many friends of CYS-Project Together (CYS-PT). Staff, volunteers and mentors for the Health Care Agency and the Mental Health Association have donated their favorite family recipes for this fundraising endeavor, which will help provide enrichment activities for the clients of Children & Youth Services and CYS-PT. Copies will arrive in November, so order one for yourself, and even extras as holiday gifts. Find the order form inserted in this newsletter and send with a donation of \$10 for each book, following the instructions on the form.

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County of Orange Health Care Agency/Behavioral Health Services

Children and Youth Services/Project Together

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South/Laguna	Lee Boon	(949)499-8614
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Aspen/Tustin	Ken Cornwell	(714)508-1919

The Health Care Agency/Behavioral Health Services/Children and Youth Services provides mental health treatment for emotionally and behaviorally disturbed youth and their families throughout Orange County. CYS- Project Together is a volunteer mentor program for CYS children and teens. The program also offers supportive resources to clients and families to assist them in achieving treatment goals. The program operates cooperatively with its community partner, the Mental Health Association of Orange County.



County of Orange Health Care Agency
Behavioral Health Services/Children & Youth Services

CYS-Project Together Highlights

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Address Correction Requested

